



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



STYLE

THE SINAI CRASH

Russian airline Kogalymavia blames 'external influence' for Saturday's tragedy

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'READY TO EXPLORE'

Deepika Padukone says she's keen on doing Hollywood films

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Minister only for Magura?

Biren takes chunk of Tk 50cr sports fund to set up gymnasium in his home district

HASAN JAHID TUSHER



Biren Sikder

It's good news for Magura but bad news for many other districts. The small town of 1.5 lakh people is going to have an exclusive gymnasium with modern facilities.

Credit goes to the state minister for youth and sports, Biren Sikder, who allegedly abused his power to appropriate Tk 8.51 crore for the gym from a Tk 50-crore fund, meant for development and renovation of playgrounds across the country.

It's also a blatant violation of the finance ministry guidelines that say funds sanctioned for one project cannot be used in another, sports ministry officials said.

An Awami League lawmaker from the tiny district about 180km southwest of Dhaka, Biren took the initiative to set up one of the most expensive gyms in the country despite strong opposition from Deputy Minister Arif Khan Joy and some officials of the ministry.

The state minister took another Tk 2 crore to construct an extended gallery of Magura district stadium. He plans to build the gym beside the stadium, sources said.

In the FY 2014-15 budget, the government sanctioned a special fund of Tk 50 crore in favour of the sports ministry for improvement of playgrounds in all the 64 districts in efforts to promote sports.

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All bookstores are shuttered at a market in Banglabazar, a publishing hub in Old Dhaka. Publishers and bookstall owners kept their shops closed across the country from the morning till 2:00pm yesterday, protesting the brutal killing of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan and the attack on another. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

No cheers for Joy

Deputy sports minister vandalises joint secy's office as banner misses his name

HASAN JAHID TUSHER



Youth and sports ministry officials are left frustrated for what they said was "continuous misbehavior" by Deputy Minister Arif Khan Joy.

They alleged Joy had ransacked the room of a joint secretary of his ministry on Sunday as his name was not included in the banner as a guest at a national youth day

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Act, immediately

Publishers rap govt; Gonojagoron Mancha's 6-hr hartal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Publishers and bookshop owners across the country kept their businesses closed for hours yesterday, protesting the murder of Faisal Arefin Dipan, owner of Jagriti Prokashani, and the brutal attack on another publisher and two bloggers.

They did not open their offices and stores until 2:00pm to press home their demand for immediate action against the culprits.

Bangladesh Publishers and Book-Sellers Association brought out silent processions at several places in the capital and elsewhere.

Wearing black badges, publishers and bookshop owners also submitted memorandums to the 64 deputy commissioners' offices, demanding their security and punishment to the culprits behind the killing and assault, its leaders said at a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

TODAY'S JSC, JDC EXAMS START AT 2:00PM -- PAGE 3

Wife files case over Dipan murder

Tutul too sue unknown assailants over the attempt on his life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faisal Arefin Dipan's wife Razia Rahman filed a case against unknown assailants yesterday, around 47 hours after the publisher was hacked to death inside his office at the city's Aziz Super Market.

Around the same time yesterday, Shuddhoshwar Tutul too sue unknown assailants over the attempt on his life

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Unite, help to fight secret killings

PM asks people, warns conspirators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon people from every corner of the country to get united against killers and conspirators and sought their help to trace perpetrators of the recent secret killings.

"To find out perpetrators of the recent secret killings, we want help from everyone who believes in the spirit of Liberation War and wants peace and progress," she said.

If people get united nobody would be able to play duck and drakes with their fate and nobody can obstruct their march towards development, added the PM.

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Review hearing now Nov 17

SQ Chy's wife files writ challenging individual's trial for war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mojaheed and Salauddin's review petitions hearings have been deferred to November 17 by the Supreme Court.

The Appellate Division of the SC was scheduled to hear the petitions yesterday. The two had sought reviews of the SC judgment that upheld the death penalties awarded to them by the war crimes tribunal in June and July.

The two condemned war criminals, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin, on October 14 had sought review of their SC appeal verdicts.

Meanwhile, Salauddin's wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the

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40 YEARS INTO JAIL KILLING

Death convicts stay safe abroad



ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Even though forty years have passed since the killing of four national leaders at Dhaka Central Jail, none of the convicted killers has been brought to book.

All the convicts are in hiding, in the USA, Canada and some other countries. And, there is no positive message from the government about bringing them back to the country.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat in August this year officially informed Dhaka that fugitive Rashed Chowdhury was staying in the US after securing political asylum there.

A government taskforce, working since 2010 to locate and bring back the absconding killers, came to know that another convicted killer Noor Chowdhury is now in Canada, but staying there illegally.

The country has declined to deport him as its policy does not approve sending back a person where there is a provision of death sentence. Canada, however, reportedly did not accept Noor's application for political asylum.

The taskforce has no confirmation about the location of the other fugitives, as they are always on the move, a taskforce member told this

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Militancy emerged during AL rule

Khaleda makes quizzical claim from London

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday alleged that the country saw the rise of militancy during the Awami League rule.

It was the BNP that had arrested all militants and tried them after it came back to power in 2001, she claimed.

"Why does Hasina talk about militancy? Does she do it to frighten foreigners? She is trying to convince the international community that militancy will rise in the country if the BNP returns to power," the BNP chief said at a meeting organised by the party's UK chapter at a hotel in London.

This was her first meeting with party men and non-resident Bangladeshis in London since she went to the UK on September 15.

"They [the AL] did not arrest any militants. Upon assuming office, we arrested all militants and started trying them," she claimed.

Media reports, however, suggest that supreme of militant outfit JMB Abdur Rahman and his deputy Siddique Islam alias Bangla Bhai boosted their "jihad"

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JOURNOS, FREELANCERS 27 murdered in 23 years

5 bloggers among them, says CPJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 45 journalists and "freelancers", including four online activists in Bangladesh, have so far been killed this year across the globe, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

Since 1992, at least 27 journalists and "freelancers" have been murdered in Bangladesh.

Of them, 19 lost their lives for their profession, said the CPJ on the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists observed yesterday.

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